



## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 6(L)

**TO:** Honorable Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** (Second Reading 7-8-03)  
**May 20, 2003**

**FROM:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 2,  
Signs in the Right-of-Way

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the attached ordinance pertaining to the regulations of signs in the right-of-way be adopted.

### BACKGROUND

Chapter 2 has long held the prohibition of placing signs in the right-of-way because of danger to pedestrians and motorists. In addition to the potential visual obstructions and physical hazards posed by signs, the proliferation of these objects creates a form of visual littering that affects the overall appearance of commercial and residential areas alike.

Because of the danger to the public and the high potential for the County's liability, it is the County's practice to issue immediate citations for all signs and to remove them. Team Metro Neighborhood Compliance Officers routinely make sign sweeps along priority corridors and in neighborhoods. The Code provides for varying levels of civil citations based on the composition of the sign and the degree of hazard. Paper or plastic signs carry a lesser fine than wood or pennants or streamers. This code amendment modifies the category of signs and consolidates some of the existing categories.

Policy issues have been expressed with respect to the amount of the fines and the requirement of issuing immediate civil citations instead of warnings. In examining the amount of the fines and the degree of public education, it is recommended that the category of sign that commonly includes garage sales or small homemade paper signs, be reduced from \$100 to \$50, and that the practice of immediate civil citations be retained because of the life-safety danger for the public.

It is important to note that Team Metro has enforced the County requirements of sign retailers to post informational notices. Merchants received information and warnings to enforce the code. Team Metro visited the major area retailers in the unincorporated area and took appropriate enforcement to assure compliance. While this regulation will benefit many residents, there are still some who create their own signs. This amendment will maintain the emphasis on life-safety while addressing the reasonableness of the fine for residents.

In addition to the above, Chapter 8CC is being amended to create a citation for the enforcement of the sign retailer posting requirement.

Attachment



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** July 8, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance amending Chapter 2,  
Signs in the Right-of-Way

**FROM:** George M. Fergussen  
County Manager

This proposed ordinance pertaining to the regulations of signs in the right-of-way will have a negative fiscal impact on Miami-Dade County. Team Metro collects approximately \$70,000 a year based on the \$100 fine for signs in the right-of-way. As a result of this proposed ordinance, these fines will now be reduced by half to \$50 thus projecting a loss in revenues to the department of about 50 percent, approximately \$35,000 annually.




# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** July 8, 2003

**FROM:**   
Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 6(L)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 6(L)  
7-8-03

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO SIGNS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY AND AMENDING CHAPTER 8CC TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 2; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

Section 1. Section 2-103.15 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida is hereby amended as follows:<sup>1</sup>

**Sec. 2-103.15 Signs in public right-of-way; prohibition**

(d) In addition to any other remedy available by law or ordinance, enforcement against the owner or benefactor and/or erector of the sign shall be outlined in Chapter 8CC (Code Enforcement). ~~[[ In the event the sign is or has been affixed to a tree in a County Maintained right-of-way in violation of section (a) in such a manner as to penetrate or injure a tree, there shall be imposed a penalty of five hundred (\$500) dollars per tree. For purposes of this section the definition of sign shall include any writing or graffiti which is directly applied to a tree. ]]~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to erect any sign, as described below, within the limits of any County maintained right-of-way:

>> (1) Illegal sign in the right-of-way affixed to a tree in such a manner as to penetrate or injure a tree. For purposes of this section

<sup>1</sup> Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

the definition of sign shall include any writing or graffiti which is directly applied to a tree. <<

~~[[ (4) ]]~~ >> (2) << Illegal signs >> less than 22 inches by 28 inches overall << in the right-of-way constructed of a material known as paper (made of cellulose pulp, derived mainly from wood used mainly for writing, printing, etc.), cardboard, or any other material known as paper >>, or signs less than 22 inches by 28 inches overall made of plastic or other similar material, any of which are secured by a wood stake, metal rod, tape, rope or other similar non-adhesive means or glue. <<

~~[[ (2) Illegal signs in the right-of-way affixed with an adhesive or glue, or secured with bricks, rocks, concrete blocks, metal rods or any similar securing device that hinders the removal of the sign. ]]~~

(3) Illegal signs in the right-of-way >> affixed with an adhesive or glue or << constructed >> of wood << and/or framed in wood, metal, or any other non-paper or non-plastic material up to 22 x 28 inches in total size.

(4) Illegal signs in the right-of-way >> affixed with an adhesive or glue or << constructed >> of wood << and/or framed in wood, metal, or any other non-paper >> plastic << or non-plastic material over 22 x 28 inches in total size

~~[[ (5) Illegal signs in the right-of-way constructed of plastic or other similar plastic-like synthetic material. ]]~~

~~[[ (6) ]]~~ >> (5) << Illegal banners, pennants, or streamers in the right-of-way.

Section 2. Section 8CC-10 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 8CC-10. Schedule of civil penalties.**

The following table shows the sections of this Code, as they may be amended from time to time, which may be enforced pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; and the dollar amount of civil penalty for the violation of these sections as they may be amended.

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The "descriptions of violations" below are for informational purposes only and are not meant to limit or define the nature of the violations or the subject matter of the listed Code sections, except to the extent that different types of violations of the same Code section may carry different civil penalties. For each Code section listed in the schedule of civil penalties, the entirety of that section may be enforced by the mechanism provided in this Chapter 8CC, regardless of whether all activities proscribed or required within that particular section are described in the "Description of Violation" column. To determine the exact nature of any activity proscribed or required by this Code, the relevant Code section must be examined.

<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Description of Violation</i>	<i>Civil Penalty</i>
2-103.15(d)>> (1) <<	Illegal signs in right-of-way which penetrate or injure a tree	500.00
2-103.15(d)([+])>>2<<	Illegal signs in the right-of-way >> <u>less than 22 inches by 28 inches</u> << constructed of a material known as paper (made of cellulose pulp, derived mainly from wood used mainly for writing, printing, etc.), cardboard, or any material known as paper >>, or <u>signs less than 22 inches by 28 inches made of plastic or other similar material, any of which are secured by a wood stake, metal rod, tape, rope or other similar non-adhesive or glue</u> <<.	[ <del>100.00</del> ]>> <u>50.00</u> <<

[[2-103.15(d)(2)]]	[[Illegal signs in the right-of-way affixed with an adhesive or glue, or secured with bricks, rocks, concrete blocks, metal rods or any similar securing device that hinders the removal of the sign.]]	[[ \$200]]
2-103.15(d)[[(4)]] >>(3)<<	Illegal signs in the right-of-way >>affixed with an adhesive or glue or<< constructed >>of wood<< and/or framed in wood, metal, or any other non-paper or non-plastic material over 22 x 28 inches in total size	500.00
2-103.15(d)(4)	Illegal signs in the right-of-way >>affixed with an adhesive or glue or << constructed >>of wood<< and/or framed in wood, metal, or any other non-paper or non-plastic material over 22 x 28 inches in total size	500.00
[[2-103.15(d)(5)]]	[[Illegal signs in the right-of-way constructed of plastic or other similar plastic-like synthetic material]]	[[200.00]]
2-103.15(d)[[(6)]] >>5<<	Illegal banners, pennants, or streamers in the right-of-way	500.00
>>2-103.15(h)	Failure of sign seller to post advisory notice	500.00<<

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 4. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.


Section 6. This ordinance does not contain a sunset provision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency:

Prepared by:

Rashmi Airan-Pace

RA 6  
  
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